

Appln. No.: 10/011,545
Amendment Dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 22, 2005

MATP-606US

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1-10 are presently pending. Claims 2 and 7 are allowed, claims 5 and 9 are objected to, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 stand rejected. Claim 9 is amended herein. Support for amended claim 9 is found throughout the specification and specifically in claim 5. No new matter is added. Accordingly, entry and approval is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

On October 24, 2005, applicant's attorney conducted an Examiner Interview with the Examiner, Tung T. Vo, to review the rejections to the claims in the Office Action mailed July 22, 2005. Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner. During the interview, the rejection of claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,700 to Zhou (herein Zhou) was discussed. Specifically, figure 4 of Zhou was discussed with reference to the last limitation of claim 1 which recites "wherein the display of frames from the first GOP begins prior to the decoding of any frame of the second GOP." The Examiner indicated that there appeared to be a difference between this limitation of claim 1 and Zhou and requested that the applicant set forth their interpretation of Zhou and identify the differences between Zhou and claim 1 in a response to the Office Action. The applicant sets forth such information below.

Claim Objections

In Section 2 of the Office Action "[c]laim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 9, lines 2 and 5 'the means' should be changed to 'means'." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this suggestion. Claim 9 depends from claim 8. Antecedent basis for "the means for decoding and storing the I-frames and P-frames" and "the means for decoding the B-frames" of claim 9 is found in claim 8 which recites "means for decoding and storing I-frames and P-frames from a second GOP" and "means for decoding any bidirectionally predictively encoded frames (B-frames)." Likewise, "the means for displaying the stored I-frames and P-frames of amended claim 9 is found in claim 8 which recites "means for displaying the stored I-frames and P-frames." Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 9 as amended be withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhou. Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration for the reasons set forth below. In particular, Zhou does not disclose or suggest that "the display of frames from the first GOP begins prior to the decoding of any frame from the second GOP" as set forth in claim 1. Claims 4, 6, 8 and 10 include similar limitations.

Zhou requires that at least one I frame from the next group of pictures (GOP) be decoded before the first reverse-time sequence frame in the first GOP (i.e. frame 12) can be displayed. (See col. 6, line 62 through col. 7, line 12). In Zhou, the frame from the second GOP in reverse time sequence is referred to as the "transitive frame." (See col. 7, lines 7-9). Furthermore, Zhou states that "[t]he advancement of decompressing a transitive frame is one of the important features of the disclosed system." Thus, it can not be obvious to modify Zhou to allow display of frames from the current GOP to begin before the transitive frame has been decoded because to do so would be to eliminate a feature of the invention that Zhou considers to be important.

These features are clearly illustrated in FIG. 4 of Zhou in which numerals within circles correspond to steps referenced in the detailed description. With reference to FIG. 4, it can be seen that, first, frame I9 (e.g., from a first GOP) is stored in frame storage 402. (See column 6, lines 62-65 of Zhou.) Second, frame P12 (e.g., from the first GOP) is stored in frame storage 404. (See column 6, line 65 through column 7, line 1 of Zhou.) Third, frame I3 (e.g., from a second GOP) is stored in frame storage 406. (See column 7, lines 4-12 of Zhou.) Fourth, the first frame to be displayed in reverse order, i.e., frame P12 from a first GOP is displayed (which is after the decoding of frame I3 from the second GOP). Accordingly, Zhou teaches the display of frames from a first GOP only after decoding frames in a second GOP, rather than the display of frames from the first GOP prior to the decoding of any frame from the second GOP as set forth in claim 1.

This feature provides the subject invention with an advantage over the system disclosed by Zhou because the system of the present invention may begin displaying the

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images more quickly, as it does not need to decode the transitive frame before starting to display frames from the first group of pictures.

Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Zhou. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the statement in the Office Action that claims 5 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if amended to include all of the limitations of their base claims. None of these claims has an intervening claim. Claims 5 and 9 depend from claims 4 and 8, respectively, and are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Zhou for at least the same reasons as claims 4 and 8.

Claims 2 and 7 are identified as allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter.

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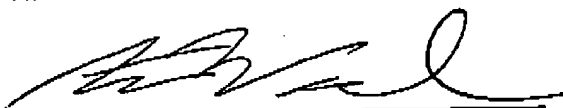
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 and the objections to claims 5 and 9.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



Kenneth N. Nigon, Reg. No. 31,549
Stephen J. Weed, Reg. No. 45,202
Attorneys for Applicant

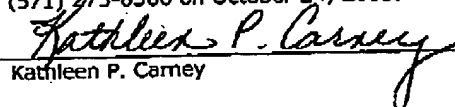
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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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Kathleen P. Carney